

Amherst Public Arts Commission Meeting – September 5, 2013
First floor meeting room, Town Hall

Present: Eric Broudy, Rachel Hankinson, Bonnie Isman, Rene Theberge
Absent: Rosario Gaddier, Jenny Lind, Jim Wald (Select Board liaison)

Rene called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes of July 11, 2013 were approved. Minutes of Aug. 7, 2013 were approved as amended. Motion by Rachel, seconded by Eric.

1. BID Block Party. Rene summarized plans for participation in the Block Party, Sept. 12. Set up will be at 5:30 pm. The event begins at 6 pm. APAC will have a table with pictures of the Portal and a place for donations. Rene, Eric, and Rachel will ask people their opinions about public art in Amherst. Rachel will provide a ‘graffiti’ poster board for public comments.

2. Chair’s Report. Rene has researched the issue of the number of members on APAC. He determined that we will have to ask Fall Town Meeting to enlarge the number to seven.

Relationships with Other Organizations. Eric did some research into public art funding in a long list of cities and towns. He did not find any other town with a public art commission like Amherst’s. The City of Cambridge has a public art administrator and had a requirement to spend 1% for public art in public building construction. Most towns get money from their Cultural Council for public art and do not have on-going funding. He met with Mary Kasper the previous Arts Administrator in Northampton. Northampton had a detailed cultural plan for all arts in 1989 and ½% funding required for public art in the past. Eric will continue this research. Eric also suggested that APAC hold a joint meeting with the Art Walk Committee. He provided an updated list for publicity distribution from Gallery A3.

Bonnie met with Ellen Kosmer, co-chair of the Amherst Cultural Council. Ellen is very supportive of grant applications from APAC and feels there should be more fine arts applications (vs. performing arts). She encouraged the development of a brochure or map identifying the town’s public art installations.

3. Visioning Meeting. APAC will meet at Rene’s house, 250 Shutesbury Road, at 2 pm on Monday, September 23 for an informal work session on visioning.

4. Fundraising & Treasurer’s Report. No new donations have come in. Rachel’s letter about the Portal sculpture with revisions by Eric and Rene just appeared in the Gazette. Rene has sent out acknowledgements to donors. APAC does not have any assigned Town staff support. The Town Manager’s Assistant Deb Roussel has been very helpful.

5. Other Business. Bonnie agreed to contact Mike Olkin about creating a map of public art and to ask about updating the list of commission members on APAC’s web page.

Adjourned 4:50 pm, followed by the Art Walk Reception.
Submitted by Bonnie Isman